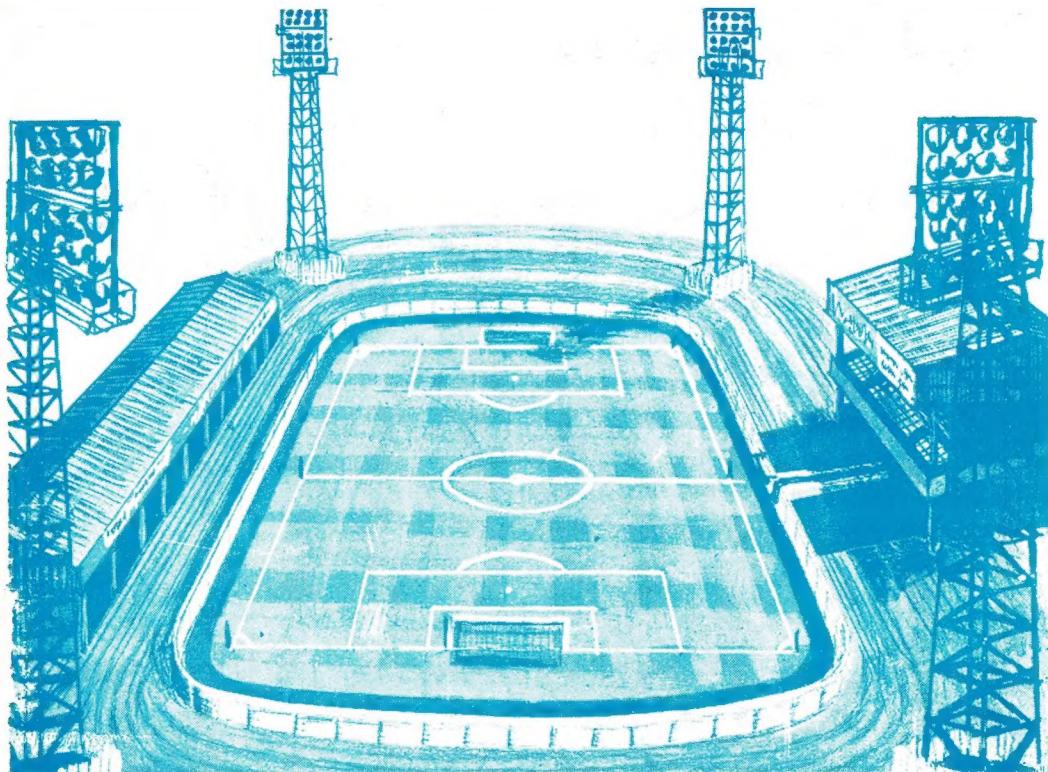


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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

PORT VALE

FRIDAY, 13th APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

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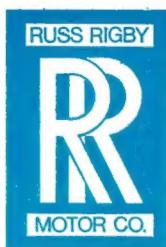
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OUR VISITORS

PORT VALE our visitors today are by no means strangers at Springfield Park. The Vale were Latics first ever opposition—Port Vale Reserves being visitors to Wigan on the first day of the season in 1932. Port Vale Res. were then a prominent Cheshire League side. In that first ever Wigan Athletic competitive game the Vale won by 2-0, but a consolation was a gate of over 5,000.

Port Vale were our F.A. Cup opponents in 1969 when they forced a draw at Springfield Park. The replay at Port Vale also resulted in a drawn game in the second replay at Old Trafford Wigan lost by the only goal scored in the dying seconds of the game. At that time Gordon Lee was the Vale manager.

There has been a Port Vale for over 100 years, maintaining a continuous existence, precarious some of the time.

It started in Longport, hence the Port, and the Vale was a house in Nuddleport nearby.

Professionals were first employed in 1885 paying them 2s. 6d. per game and it entered the F.A. Cup that season.

When League football began in 1888, Burslem Port Vale (as it was known then) was connected with the Football Alliance and the Midland League, before being selected as one of the Football League in 1892. The Vale resigned from the League in 1907 through lack of finance.

In 1919 the club regained League status and remained in Division 2 until 1929 when it was relegated to the 3rd Division (North), but then returned to Division 2 the following season with the following record :— Played 42, Won 30, Drawn 7, Lost 5, 103 For, 37 Against — Points 67.

Success in the early post war years brought such support that a new ground was bought and made into a fine stadium. Vale Park is now capable of housing over 50,000.

Port Vale's greatest success in the F.A. Cup was in 1953/54 (and strangely that year Wigan had also great success, a draw at Newcastle will be remembered by most Latics fans). In that season Vale reached the semi-final, losing 1-2 to West Brom.

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FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

We give a warm welcome this afternoon to Port Vale F.C. who arrive at Springfield Park looking for the double over us. We lost 2-1 in January, during the freeze, so we are obviously looking for revenge today. Despite conditions it was an entertaining match and we trust that this afternoon's encounter is equally as good.

Final Run-in

It is quite exciting for myself, Ken Banks and the players to go into the Easter weekend with still a little chance of promotion. It has been a

battle all the way since our bad start but thankfully we have kept at it, and whatever we gain from this season it has certainly been one to remember. The experience has been invaluable to our players and can only stand them in good stead for the rest of their careers. It has also been a tremendous effort on you the supporters part and I am sure you will give the lads every encouragement for the final three home games. All I can say is we will do our best, and here's hoping our best is good enough.

I. McNEILL.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

	Home						Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grimsby	38	14	4	2	45	18	9	2	7	24	21	52
Reading	38	14	3	1	40	8	6	8	6	24	27	51
Aldershot	38	13	5	2	34	14	4	9	5	21	23	48
Barnsley	34	11	4	2	39	17	7	7	3	21	12	47
WIGAN ATHLETIC	38	13	3	4	31	17	6	6	6	19	19	47
Wimbledon	34	13	2	2	33	17	6	5	6	25	21	45
Portsmouth	36	12	4	2	29	9	5	5	8	24	29	43
Newport	37	9	4	5	29	24	8	4	7	24	22	42
Torquay	37	10	4	5	30	23	5	2	11	16	29	36
Stockport	37	10	3	7	28	19	3	6	8	23	30	35
Hereford	36	9	7	2	29	17	3	4	11	14	25	35
Bradford City	35	8	4	5	25	19	6	3	9	22	35	35
Port Vale	36	6	8	4	22	20	5	3	10	21	29	33
York City	34	6	5	5	19	18	6	4	8	15	24	33
Bournemouth	38	8	5	6	28	17	3	5	11	10	17	32
Huddersfield	35	9	7	2	24	12	2	3	12	16	28	32
Hartlepool	34	5	10	3	29	25	3	5	8	11	26	31
Scunthorpe	35	8	2	7	24	26	3	7	8	15	24	31
Doncaster	38	7	6	7	21	20	4	3	11	19	38	31
Northampton	35	9	4	5	30	23	2	3	12	17	34	29
Darlington	34	6	5	6	18	16	3	5	9	19	33	28
Crewe	36	3	6	8	19	29	3	7	9	18	37	25
Rochdale	34	5	4	7	15	23	2	5	11	16	31	23
Halifax	35	4	4	7	10	17	2	2	16	14	37	18

EDITORIAL

It is interesting to look back over the years that association football has been in existence—and all the undermentioned statements are incredibly true :

(1) In the 1887 Cup Final between Aston Villa and West Brom there were a mere 15,000 spectators. The players wore external shin-pads and the goalkeeper wore the same strip as his team mates, the only distinction being he was forced to wear a cap.

(2) In 1879 Darwen reached the semi-final of the F.A. Cup.

(3) In 1884 the price of a season ticket at West Brom was only three shillings.

(4) In 1888-89 Preston North End were an undefeated team in both League and Cup. They won the 'double' that year.

(5) The price of the programme for the F.A. Cup Final at Crystal Palace in 1897, between Aston Villa and Everton was One Penny.

(6) In 1901 the F.A. Cup was won by a non-League club, Tottenham,

who were members of the Southern League. The victory remains the only time a non-League club has lifted the Cup.

(7) In 1902 Sheffield United's Cup winning side included a 21 stone goalkeeper, Billy Foulke. He was the largest player ever to have appeared in League football.

(8) The highest gate ever to be recorded in England was the 1923 Cup Final, at Wembley, between Bolton and West Ham, when 126,047 people paid for admission. In those days the crowd was admitted through the turnstiles — that day the turnstiles broke down and the crowd broke in. It is estimated that over 200,000 entered the ground. Since then all Cup Finals have been by ticket only.

(9) Jimmy McGrory, of Celtic, is the most prolific goalscorer in British football. In 408 matches he scored 410 goals, to become the only man to maintain a goal a game average.

(10) Scottish Club Arbroath, whose ground is situated on the sea-shore, hold a British record of the biggest ever win against Bon Accord in a Scottish Cup-tie : 36 goals to nil.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. HARTLEPOOL UNITED

MONDAY, 16th APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Liverpool 'A'

SATURDAY, 21st APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

PORT VALE FOOTBALL CLUB

THE CLUB

Port Vale are one of the few Football League clubs who, geographically speaking cannot be found on the map.

The North Staffordshire club is based in the mother town of the Potteries—Burslem—and were for a spell known as Burslem Port Vale. The Burslem tag was dropped in the early 1900's, leaving many of today's fans still curious as to the origins of the Vale team.

The name 'Port Vale' is believed to have been taken from a house near to where the inaugural meeting of the club took place. That was in 1876 and after moving home three times and attracting attention with some magnificent performances in the F.A. Cup, Vale became one of the 12 founder members of the Football League's Second Division in 1892.

Unfortunately, Vale's stay was neither distinguished nor lengthy. In 1896 they were forced to resign—but after two seasons in the Midland League, Vale were readmitted to the Second Division in 1898.

Again their stay was fraught with difficulties and in 1907 they decided not to seek re-election. In 1911 they became founder members of the Central League, and then, following a move to another new ground in Hanley, came an unexpected chance to return to the League for the third time.

In 1919 the League expelled Leeds City for alleged illegal payments and Vale were invited to take their place. They did so and have remained in the competition ever since, apart from a brief spell in the summer of 1968 when Vale themselves were expelled for, ironically, the same reason.

Although their early days as a League Club were spent in the Second Division, Vale have spent much of their time in the lower divisions. In fact, in the post-War era they have only once had a brief flirtation with Division 2.

Vale first experienced relegation in 1929 when they dropped into Division 3 (North) but they bounced back immediately, gaining promotion the following season as champions.

Six years later, though, Vale dropped again and it was not until 1954 that they returned following the season in which Vale also reached the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup—one of the few clubs to do so when in the Third Division.

Vale only spent three seasons in the Second Division, and it is 20 years now since they last played at that level. In fact life has been rather a struggle, and Vale have walked something of a tight-rope at times.

Living in the shadow of Stoke City has not helped, but by dint of hard work and economic living, plus the enforced sales of players, the club are probably in a better position today than many clubs in the lower reaches of the League.

There have been the occasional bright spots too. After suffering relegation from Division 2 in 1957, Vale found themselves founder members of Division Four only a year later—but became the first champions of the new section.

They have also been involved in some notable F.A. Cup trials, which has gained the club something of a reputation as cup fighters. This was enhanced in 1976-77, when Vale reached the 5th Round before losing to Aston Villa at Villa Park in front of a crowd of nearly 50,000.

THE PLAYERS

TERRY BAILEY (midfield)
KEN BEAMISH (forward)
KENNY BEECH (midfield)
BILL BENTLEY (defender)
ALAN BLOOR (defender)
RUSSEL BROMAGE (midfield)
NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN (forward)
JOHN CONNAUGHTON (goalkeeper)
TREVOR DANCE (goalkeeper)
GARRY DULSON (defender/midfield)
IAN ELSBY (midfield)
JOHN FROGGATT (forward)
NEIL GRIFFITHS (defender)
DAVID HARRIS (central defender)
GRAHAM HAWKINS (central defender)
GREGORY LOWNDES (goalkeeper)
JOHN RIDLEY (defender/midfield)
GERARD STENSON (midfield)
PETER SUTCLIFFE (winger)
NEIL WILKINSON
BERNIE WRIGHT (forward)
GERRY KEENAN (defender)
BOB DELGADO (central defender)
BRIAN SINCLAIR (forward)
PETER FARRELL (forward)
KEN TODD (forward)
FELIX HEALY.

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FOCUS ON DAVE FRETWELL

<i>Full Name :</i>	David Fretwell.
<i>Birthplace :</i>	Wakefield.
<i>Birthdate :</i>	February 18th 1952.
<i>Height :</i>	5 ft. 8 inches.
<i>Weight :</i>	11 stone.
<i>Previous Clubs :</i>	Bradford City.
<i>Married :</i>	Yes. Pamela.
<i>Children :</i>	Yes. Andrew.
<i>Car :</i>	Fiat 127.
<i>Favourite player :</i>	Eddie Gray.
<i>Favourite other team :</i>	Leeds United.
<i>Most difficult opponent :</i>	Mick Jones.
<i>Most memorable match :</i>	v. Arsenal, 1973 F.A. Cup.
<i>Biggest thrill :</i>	Beating Norwich 2-1.
<i>Biggest disappointment :</i>	Losing 1-0 6th Rd. FA Cup '76 to Southampton
<i>Best country visited :</i>	U.S.A.
<i>Favourite food :</i>	Apple Pie.
<i>Miscellaneous likes :</i>	Golf, Cricket.
<i>Miscellaneous dislikes :</i>	Smoking (N.B. John Brown)
<i>Favourite TV shows :</i>	Fawlty Towers.
<i>Favourite singers :</i>	Santana, Fleetwood Mac.
<i>Favourite actors :</i>	Burt Reynolds, Clint Eastwood.
<i>Best friend:</i>	Many.
<i>Biggest influence on career :</i>	Maurice Conroy.
<i>Biggest drag in soccer :</i>	Travelling.
<i>International honours :</i>	None.
<i>Personal ambition :</i>	To be successful.
<i>Professional ambition :</i>	To win promotion.
<i>If not in football, what would you like to be :</i>	A Professional Golfer.
<i>Which person in the world would you most like to meet :</i>	The Queen.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It gives me great pleasure to welcome to Springfield Park today, Port Vale, a club with a great tradition and with whom we have had many contacts since 1932. They have, on many occasions been our opponents with their always strong reserve side in the Cheshire County League. We met in the F.A. Cup 1st Round in 1969, and this needed three games to eventually decide the winner.

We hope today's game will be played in good spirit as it was at Vale Park in January, although it is hoped the weather conditions will have considerably improved from then.

At the time of writing these notes we are again occupying fourth pos-

ition in the League — only inferior goal difference keeps us out of third place instead of Aldershot. In view of the large number of games in hand of all others, Barnsley and Wimbledon seem good favourites to gain promotion, but the present top four have all played the same number of games with only four points in difference. There is, however, still no real certainties to go into Division 3 next season as the games in hand by the Barnsley and Wimbledon clubs have still to be won. In past seasons 56 points have been sufficient to gain promotion, but I rather think that 58 points will be required this year.

In 1978, the top four gained 71, 60, 56, 56 points respectively, but this season appears to be similar to 1977 when the top four gained 65, 62, 59, 59, respectively.

The highest number of points to be gained by a Fourth Division club to win the championship was 74 by Lincoln City in 1975/76, and the lowest gained to be champions was 59 pts. by Doncaster in the 1968/69.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4
FRIDAY, 13th APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic

- 1 John Brown
- 2 John Curtis
- 3 Kevin Smart
- 4 Tommy Gore
- 5 Noel Ward
- 6 Dave Fretwell
- 7 Frank Corrigan
- 8 Jeff Wright
- 9 Peter Houghton
- 10 Mickey Moore
- 11 Ian Purdie
- 12 Derek Brownbill

Referee :

Mr. J. K. BUTCHER
(Kendal)

Linesmen :

Mr. D. B. Allison
(Lancaster)
Red Flag

Mr. J. P. Evans
(Prestatyn)
Yellow Flag

FOR YOUR RECORD

Result :

Attendance :

Scorers :

Port Vale

- 1 Trevor Dance
- 2 Gerry Keenan
- 3 Neil Griffiths
- 4 Kenny Beech
- 5 Bob Delgado
- 6 Bill Bentley
- 7 Brian Sinclair
- 8 Peter Farrell
- 9 Bernie Wright
- 10 Ken Todd
- 11 Felix Healy

TODAY'S REFEREE

KEITH J. BUTCHER (Kendal).

Mr. Butcher has refereed through the Westmorland League and Lancashire Combination to go on the Football League list in 1972. Has acted as linesman in a European Cup match and also an Anglo-Italian semi-final tie.

A married man with two children, he is a licensee, whose interests are sea fishing, cricket and fell walking. Has played as a semi-professional goalkeeper in Lancashire Combination, hockey for Northern England and cricket for Westmorland League.

LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



When Wigan Athletic were in the Northern Premier League one of the main stumbling blocks for the clubs seeking nomination for Football League election was the so called "grounds" test.

Top non-League clubs hoping to break into the big time have to have their ground passed by the Football League and many fail the examination.

Latics only got last year's NPL nomination for election because champions Boston didn't get an A1 pass, but having been to Hartlepool, it beats me how non-League grounds keep getting the thumbs down.

The Hartlepool pitch was in superb condition, putting Springfield Park's churned-up turf in the shade, but the state of the main stand and dressing rooms has to be seen to be believed.

I certainly wouldn't have ranked the Victoria ground above the 'homes' of some of the leading NPL clubs, and if ever time has stood still . . . it happened at Hartlepool.

Non-League clubs are an ambitious lot and at the present they are mobilising their top sides into the new Alliance, which will eventually lead to the end of the closed shop.

The idea is for the Alliance to become a sort of fifth "division" of the Football League and clubs like Hartlepool must view the development with some trepidation.

But whatever the state of Hartlepool's facilities, Latics found no cobwebs on the players. The 1-1 draw saw Latics on the rack in the second half and sweeper Dave Fretwell summed up the rearguard action by saying: "It was like the Alamo".

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

	Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	Scorers
1978					
Aug. 19	Hereford	0-0	5,674	x	
Aug. 23	GRIMSBY	0-3	9,227	x	
Sept. 26	Reading	0-2	4,788	x	
Sept. 2	NEVERTHORPE	2-3	5,319	x	
Sept. 9	Wimbledon	1-2	3,217	x	
Sept. 13	ROCHDALE	3-0	5,746	x	
Sept. 16	BRADFORD	1-3	7,090	x	
Sept. 23	York	1-0	3,307	x	
Oct. 1	PORTSMOUTH	0-1	13,362	x	
Oct. 5	SCUNTHORPE	1-0	4,459	x	
Oct. 7	HUDSONFIELD	1-1	5,150	x	
Oct. 14	DONCASTER	1-0	5,788	x	
Oct. 18	HALIFAX	1-0	5,216	x	
Oct. 21	BARRISLEY	0-0	9,841	x	
Nov. 4	NORTHAMPTON	2-0	6,264	x	
Nov. 10	Stockport	1-0	8,357	x	
Nov. 18	Newport	1-2	4,143	x	
Nov. 25	READING	3-0	5,888	x	
Dec. 9	BURY (FA 1)	2-2	10,142	x	
Dec. 16	Darlington	1-1	1,963	x	
Dec. 23	Halifax	2-1	2,437	x	
Dec. 26	Port Vale	1-2	3,746	x	
Dec. 30	CREWE	1-0	7,586	x	
Jan. 3	ALDERSHOT	3-2	7,289	x	
Feb. 14	PORTSMOUTH	2-0	8,289	x	
Feb. 17	WIMBLEDON	1-2	6,704	x	
Feb. 17	HUDSONFIELD	2-1	7,420	x	
Feb. 24	Doncaster	1-0	4,816	x	
Mar. 28	YORK	1-1	5,886	x	
Mar. 3	BARNSTAPLE	1-1	9,427	x	
Mar. 10	Northampton	4-2	2,275	x	
Mar. 14	TORQUAY	3-1	5,722	x	
Mar. 17	STOCKPORT	2-0	7,610	x	
Mar. 19	Rochdale	2-0	3,642	x	
Mar. 24	GRIMSBY	1-3	8,252	x	
Mar. 28	HEREFORD	0-0	4,876	x	
Mar. 31	BOURNEMOUTH	1-0	5,527	x	
Apr. 3	Hartlepool	1-1	2,080	x	
Apr. 7	Torquay	1-1	2,969	x	
Apr. 13	PORT VALE				
Apr. 14	Crewe				
Apr. 16	HARTEPOOL				
Apr. 21	Aldershot				
Apr. 28	DARLINGTON				
May 1	Scunthorpe				
May 5	Bournemouth				
May 12	Bradford City				
May 12	F A CUP FINAL				

Scorers

Grew

Petrelli

Brownbill

Worswick

Moor

Seddon

Smart

Gay

Comperton

Purdie

Wright

Houghton

Gillibrand

McGilligan

David

Grove

Brooks

Wright

Corrigan

Hinnigan

Wright

Hinnigan

Purdie

Gore

Purdie

Gore

Brownbill

Brownbill

Ward

Hinnigan

Moore

Purdie

Houghton

H

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

		F-A
August—		
18—Blackpool 'A'	H	2-1
25—Southport Res.	H	1-1
September—		
2—Everton 'A'	A	2-1
9—Chester 'A'	H	1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res.	A	0-0
16—		
23—Bradford City Res.	H	5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'	A	1-2
October—		
7—Rochdale Res.	H	2-2
14—Rochdale Res.	A	0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res.	H	2-0
27—Stockport County 'A'	A	8-0
November—		
11—Tranmere R. Res.	H	2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	A	3-3
25—Manchester City 'A'	A	2-1
December—		
2—Blackpool 'A'	H	
9—Port Vale Res.	H	3-1
13—Macclesfield T. Res.	H	5-1
16—Chester 'A'	A	
26—		
30—Morecambe Res.	A	5-0

1979

	F-A
January—	
1—Oldham Ath. Res.	H 1-3
6—Morecambe Res.	H 3-1
13—Port Vale Res.	A 0-5
20—Manchester City 'A'	H
27—Macclesfield T. Res.	A 6-2
February—	
3—Bradford City Res.	A
10—Crewe Alex Res.	H 5-0
17—Manchester Utd. 'A'	A 2-2
24—Oldham Ath. Res.	A 1-4
March—	
3—Carlisle Res.	A 1-3
8—Stockport County 'A'	H 4-2
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	A 5-0
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	H 5-0
31—Wrexham Res.	A 2-3
April—	
7—Manchester Utd. 'A'	H
13—Southport Res.	A (Fri.)
15—Wrexham Res.	H
16—	
21—Liverpool 'A'	H
28—	
May—	
5—Everton 'A'	H

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